Letters to the editor; Doug Ford is ignoring the rights of elderly patients, MPPs charge, Aug. 29 EV rebates won't save the planet, Aug. 31 Bill patients who refuse to move, hospitals told, Aug. 31 Ottawa deserves credit for saving lives, Aug. 31 He lifted the Iron Curtain, Aug. 31

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Body

Once again, our premier bypasses democracy

Doug Ford is ignoring the rights of elderly patients, MPPs charge, Aug. 29

We have a well-established democratic process for enacting government legislation that includes legislative committee review and public consultation. The problem that this legislation is intended to address has existed for years and the government has known it, yet has never acted to resolve it by funding new long-term-care beds and home care.

Doug Ford has previously run roughshod over our democratic rights by using the "notwithstanding clause" and minister's zoning orders (MZOs).

We need the standard process of committee review and public consultation to be followed on this and all legislation.

Greg Sheehan, Mississauga

EV rebates will help - along with other measures

EV rebates won't save the planet, Aug. 31

While I applaud Amy Mann's climate activism and passion in the fight to combat the climate crisis, I have to disagree with her column on electric vehicle (EV) rebates. Based on U.S. figures (I couldn't find Canadian data), transportation accounts for 27 per cent of emissions, and, of that, 41 per cent is from passenger cars. That means roughly 11 per cent of emissions are from cars.

EV subsidies would play a huge role, as the comparison of Ontario since Ford's cancellation of subsidies with Quebec and B.C. makes clear.

In tandem with subsidies for solar panels, as well as switching to the electrification of public transport, these would put Canada in the same position as those few countries that are meeting their obligation to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

John Peate, Courtice

Home care would help free hospital beds

Bill patients who refuse to move, hospitals told, Aug. 31

I agree that dumping people into long-term care is not the greatest of ideas. However, due to governments over the years lack of interest in the alternatives, for the moment, there are not many options.

A home care system would require a huge commitment from all forms of government to change the way health care is done, and, at the moment, I do not see anyone willing to commit to such a task.

Catherine Hetu, Merlin, Ont.

Ottawa's COVID response was the right call

Ottawa deserves credit for saving lives, Aug. 31

Mark Bulgutch has my full support in patting the federal government on the back for the timely and productive actions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The programs not only saved many lives, but also made lives of Canadians more comfortable by handing out millions of dollars in the form of temporary benefits.

Raza Kara, Richmond Hill

Gorbachev gave us a glimpse of a better world

He lifted the Iron Curtain,

Aug. 31

For the children of the 1980s, who saw the end of the Cold War and freedom spring to life in Eastern Europe, and saw the collapse of the Iron Curtain and the fall of the Berlin Wall, Gorbachev was a hero and man of vision.

He gave Europe and Russia freedom. So rest well, Mikhail Gorbachev!

Thank you for, not only tearing down the wall, but giving us a taste of a better world that is still waiting to be born.

Steven Eleftheriadis, North York

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